

INFORMATION REPORT
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CD NO.

COUNTRY Switzerland

DATE DISTR. 9 JUN 50

SUBJECT Recent Developments
 in the PdA, Zürich

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED] 25X1A6a

NO. OF ENCLS.
 (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED] 25X1X6

SUPPLEMENT TO
 REPORT NO.

1. Following the severe defeat suffered by the PdA in the recent city elections in Zürich, many signs of internal dissension and administrative difficulties have been observed within the ranks of the leadership of the Zürich Communists.
2. At a secret meeting in early April of the administrative direction of the Zürich PdA at the PdA Sekretariat presided over by Jakob Lechleiter, Max Meier, the head of the educational committee of the PdA for Zürich, by profession a schoolteacher and by character one of the few real hotheads among top PdA personnel in Zürich, took exception to certain statements made by Lechleiter explaining the recent defeat of the party in the elections. Meier came forward from his seat, and when Lechleiter leaned down from the platform to hear better what Meier was saying, Meier swung at Lechleiter, the latter struck back, a serious fist-fight ensued, and the two had to be separated by the other persons attending the meeting. At a later meeting not attended by Meier, it was decided to expel him from the party.
3. The PdA has also for some time been planning to expel Otto Brunner, leader of the PdA for the district of Zürich-Altstetten, because of Titoism. As it has recently become apparent, however, that Brunner has the full backing of the PdA members of his own district, as well as that of Heinrich Gröhler, PdA leader of District IV in Zürich, likewise a workers' district, the PdA is thinking twice about losing both Brunner and Gröhler, since the latter would undoubtedly follow Brunner if Brunner were expelled. The adherents of Brunner and Gröhler together in their two districts form such a large part of the PdA rank and file that the party could hardly exclude both men without having to reckon with a complete break-up of the party into several rival splinter groups. Overtures are therefore now being made to Brunner, despite his heresies, in order to prevent the dissolution of the party.
4. Konrad Farnet, chief educational adviser (Schulungsreferent) for the entire German-Swiss PdA, recently visited SED contacts in Eastern Germany in order to offer his services for work in Germany. He had previously applied through PdA channels for a job in Germany. He was told by SED to return to Switzerland, since nothing could be done for him in Germany. A message was passed from the SED to the PdA via the Soviet Legation in Bern, informing the PdA that Farnet was to be kept on in Switzerland at a salary of 400 Swiss francs per month in his job as educational adviser. Farnet was nevertheless recently informed by the PdA that it could not pay him anything.

CLASSIFICATION		SECRET		DISTRIBUTION	
STATE	#	NAVY	NSRB		
ARMY	#	AIR	FBI		

This document is hereby regraded to
 CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
 letter of 13 October 1978 from the
 Director of Central Intelligence to the
 Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

Document No. [REDACTED]
 No Change in Class. [REDACTED]
☒ Declassified
 Class. Changed To: TS S C
 Auth.: HP TC
 Date: 8 JUN 1978
 By: 28

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

25X1A2g


5. Lechleiter recently informed his colleague in the executive committee of the PdA Zürich, Willy Engeli, that both Lechleiter and Engeli would have to forego the salaries they were receiving from the PdA, since there was no more money left to pay any PdA employees regularly.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~